



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

AUGUST 2017

# The BUZZ WORD



Our Veterans and Members enjoyed watching the bikes go by.



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

*Fulfilling the Promise*

**325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201**

**The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on insuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.**

**VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.**

*For any Further Questions Please Contact:*

**Mary Ryan, Executive Assistant  
mary.ryan@vermont.gov  
802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

## Administration and Department Directors

Melissa Jackson, CEO/Administrator  
447-6533  
[melissa.jackson@vermont.gov](mailto:melissa.jackson@vermont.gov)

Col. Al Faxon, COO/Deputy Administrator  
447-6544  
[allan.faxon@vermont.gov](mailto:allan.faxon@vermont.gov)

Steven McClafferty, Business Manager  
447-2732  
[Steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov](mailto:Steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov)

Patricia Crossman, Director of Nursing Services  
447-6565  
[Patricia.crossman@vermont.gov](mailto:Patricia.crossman@vermont.gov)

Cindy Rankin, Food Service Director  
447-2815  
[cindy.rankin@vermont.gov](mailto:cindy.rankin@vermont.gov)

Michele Burgess, Activities Director  
447-6520  
[michele.burgess@vermont.gov](mailto:michele.burgess@vermont.gov)

Christina Cosgrove, Social Services Director  
447-2792  
[christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov](mailto:christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov)

Jon Endres, Environmental Services Director  
447-6528  
[jon.endres@vermont.gov](mailto:jon.endres@vermont.gov)

Patti Parker, Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor  
447-2731  
[patricia.parker@vermont.gov](mailto:patricia.parker@vermont.gov)

Jen Morrison, Program Manager of Rehab  
447-6548

Karen Divis, Quality Assurance Nurse  
447-2888  
[karen.divis@vermont.gov](mailto:karen.divis@vermont.gov)

Mary Hamilton, MDS  
379-5279  
[mary.hamilton@vermont.gov](mailto:mary.hamilton@vermont.gov)

Gary Yelle, Admissions Coordinator and  
Marketing Director  
447-6539  
[gary.yelle@vermont.gov](mailto:gary.yelle@vermont.gov)



## Chaplain's Corner...



Howdy folks,

I want to make you all aware that I need to cut my time at the Veterans' Home to one day per week. Therefore, in coordination with Ms. Jackson and Mr. Faxon, Reverend Richard McSherry will do the Thursday visitations and all faiths services. I will continue to do visitations and assist Father Holden at Mass on Wednesdays.

Some of you were introduced to Rev. McSherry last week when we were wandering around the Home. Rev. McSherry is a native of North Bennington and is an ordained American Baptist. He is currently serving as pastor of the Shaftsbury United Methodist Church. He is a devout Christian and a great supporter of Veterans and Veteran Programs. Some of you will recall that his mom, Louise, was a resident here a few years ago and his sister, Grace, had been the Director of Social Services.

I know you will love Rev. McSherry and will give him the same courtesies you have given me over the past nine years.

God Bless you all, don't forget to pray for our troops serving around the globe.

Chaplain Ken



On June 2nd, VVH congratulated Lori Sprague, Jodi Waldron, Samantha Gibson, Teresa Sears-Dawson and Heather Daigneault for passing the LNA class given at VVH.







Veterans and members enjoy the warmer weather and plenty of sunshine with some patio time.





## A Month Making Memories: by Marion Ryberg (Weekend Receptionist)

I spent the month of June visiting the town where my mother was from and the town where she worked until Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia and changed everything. My mother was born in a small town, Chodau, in what is now the Czech Republic. Every day she would take the train into Karlsbad or Karlovy Vary to work as a medical technician. I traced her steps from Chodau to Karlsbad. (Karlovy Vary is the Czech name for Karlsbad.) It is a beautiful spa town famous for its mineral-rich water that comes out of the ground very hot. My mother would tell me of the well-known people who would come to “take the cure” and listen to grand orchestras play Mozart, Bach, Strauss, etc. Kings, queens, authors, revolutionaries (Karl Marx), Kellogg, actors and historical figures from the past and the present were visitors in the Grand Hotel Pupp. It was grand then and it is grand today. My mother would tell me stories about the splendor of the views, the buildings, the music, the grand people in their grand garments. Such a city of splendor only ten kilometers from the small, rural town where she was born. It is truly a wonderful city to visit.



After the Germans, the Russians occupied the region and then the Americans. My father was one of those Americans. They met because my aunt, my mother's sister, would wash and press the uniforms for the soldiers. He came to pick up his laundry and saw my mother for the first time and fell in love. But my father was transferred to Nurnberg during the trials where he stood guard over Hess and Goring. My mother eventually made it to Nurnberg where, after much paperwork, they were married. My mother followed my father to Texas where he was then stationed and I was born in the General Beaumont Hospital in El Paso. My sister was born in Yakima, Washington three years later while my father was fighting in Korea. He received a field commission in Korea and was allowed to keep it becoming a mustang and making the military his career.

I also visited my cousins who live in Bavaria near Munich. They live where others vacation. It is truly my view of what heaven must be like. I traveled by car over the mountainous, curvy roads, by boat on the Konig Sea, and took a tour of the Alps by plane. The food, the desserts, the beer, the music, the sights and sounds, the language, the memories, all made it a month that I will not soon forget. Aufwiedersehen!



Everyone enjoyed the bikes roll by as they headed out on their Vets run bike ride.





On behalf of the Veterans/Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations.

Donation Correction from the July Buzzword  
Steve Leach not Steve Lynch. My apologies, Tess

Mike Dougall  
Charles Thompson  
Jim Smith/Northeast Baptist College  
Joseph McCusker  
Mike Oltedac  
Suzanne Dern Green  
Sue Nutting  
Alice Black  
Patricia Watson  
Dr. Donald Valerino  
Gary Bronson  
James Carbin  
Sons of the American Legion Post 69  
George and Maureen Foster  
Dept. of VT Auxiliary VFW  
Frank Thompson  
Dist. 1 VFW Dept of VT  
Hildegard Film  
Bennington Elks  
Phyllis Roberts  
DAV Auxiliary  
VFW District 4  
Pownal American Legion

**In Memory of:**

**Virginia Casey**

Richard Vachon

**Channey and Francis Butler**

Harold & Debra Colegrove

Albet Kent

Joy & Christopher Ray

Lynn & James Salzano

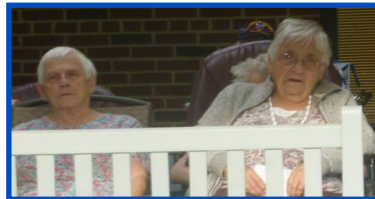
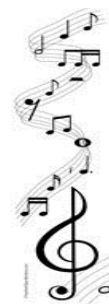
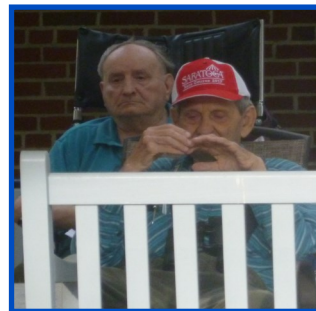
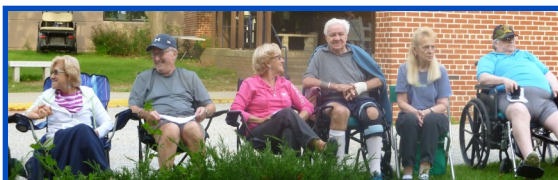
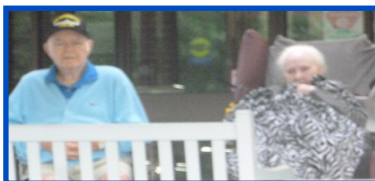
**William May**

Sandra & Manuel Almeida

Susan Frew

**Trever Howard**

His Family



The Eagles Band from Pittsfield performed for the Veterans/Members and community. We had a great turn out and the weather cooperated, too.





## From Deputy Administrator... Colonel Al Faxon



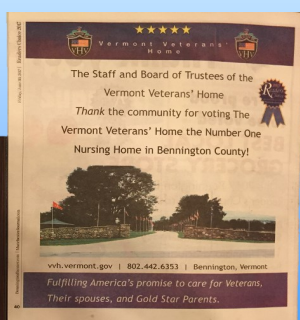
Vermont Veterans' Home family and team, it sure has been a busy summer at our home of heroes.....and August just hit. Picnics, car shows, public concerts, open house, fishing derbies, Veterans Bike Nite & Ride, Military Service Birthdays, baby deer, The New Pavilion and more....Incredible! Almost all of the events listed above are supported in some form or fashion by our tremendous community. They do this for us because of you, the special people that live and work here.....

The world continues to be a crazy place; thus, as we continually give thanks and recognize our Veterans for their service to our great nation.....please take the time to remember those currently serving and are willing to strap on the gear to meet our enemy anytime, anywhere.



Semper Fi"  
AF

### Nice recognition from the local community and Vermont American Legion!!!



Northeast Baptist College donated yummy BBQ for the staff to enjoy.



From your friendly infection control team at VVH:  
Did you know?

The new BUZZ WORD in the infection control world is  
**Antibiotic Stewardship.**

So, what does Antibiotic Stewardship mean you ask?

It means using Antibiotics **only when appropriate and necessary.**

Antibiotic drugs are a very strong medications that have saved many lives throughout the years when used appropriately. They can also be very harmful when they are not needed. In some cases, Antibiotics can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea including C. difficile (more to come on C-Diff). rash, harm your kidneys or other organs. Worse yet, use of antibiotics can cause the development of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics.

Antibiotics only help certain bacterial infections; they do not help infections caused by viruses such as the flu, cold or diarrhea.

**Helpful hint:** If you have bacteria in your urine, it does not always mean you need to be treated with an antibiotic. It is very normal for many older people to have bacteria in their urine without symptoms. If you do have symptoms such as bloody urine, pain with urination or frequent urination, you may need to be treated with an antibiotic and should speak with your health care team (nurse aid, nurse, doctor, or nurse practitioner).



Patricia Babcock RN, IP



Rhythm Hollow Stables in North Bennington, owned and operated by Tara Lowary, recently invited our Veterans to come for a visit.



Rene brought pictures to show the folks at the stable about his time as a NY mounted policeman.





## THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:  
[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)  
Click on About Our Home  
Click on Newsletters
- ♦ Email
- ♦ Mailing List

Please contact:

The Buzz Word Editor  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 447-6510

Email: [mary.ryan@vermont.gov](mailto:mary.ryan@vermont.gov)

### VVH WISH LIST

CD Players  
CDs of any type of music  
Newspaper Subscriptions  
Costume Jewelry  
Envelopes, Stamps, Pens, Writing Paper  
Men's Caps  
Men's belts and suspenders  
300 piece easy grip puzzles  
500 piece easy grip puzzles  
Universal TV Remotes  
Earphones for TV and Music  
DVD Players  
Outdoor Benches

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

**THANK YOU**

*Honoring  
Those Who Have  
Served*

## DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

### Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members  
Furniture  
Haircuts  
Clothing  
Other personal needs

### Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation  
Supplies  
Equipment

### Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment  
Large purchase

### Activities Fund:

Entertainment

### Music & Memory Fund:

iPods  
Headphones  
iTunes cards

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**\*\* We will not be accepting books or magazines at this time. THANK YOU to all who have donated to our Veterans at VVH.**





# The kitchen is complete!!



## Pots & Pans



All work on the Kitchen is done and the Dietary staff have moved into the new space. The layout is more efficient and everything looks great!!

## Dish machine area



## Cook's line



## Cart room



## Prep area



## Dry storage



## Great food and camaraderie



Received a nice donation for our Veterans



## VFW Picnic was tremendous



Pavilion was packed!



*Thank You!*



For your  
continued  
support of our  
Veterans!





## Travels with Steve



Dear All,

“America has joined forces with the Allied Powers, and what we have of blood and treasure are yours. Therefore, it is that with loving pride we drape the colors in tribute of respect to this citizen of your great republic. And here and now, in the presence of the illustrious dead, we pledge our hearts and our honor in carrying this war to a successful issue. Lafayette, we are here.”

Col. Charles E. Stanton, US Army  
July 4, 1917

“How does a ragtag volunteer army in need of a shower somehow defeat a global superpower? How do we emerge victorious from the quagmire? Leave the battlefield waving Betsy Ross’ flag higher? Yo. Turns out we have a secret weapon! An immigrant you know and love who’s unafraid to step in! He’s constantly confusin’, confoundin’ the British henchmen. Ev’ryone give it up for America’s favorite fighting Frenchman! Lafayette!” Guns and Ships lyrics from the play Hamilton

While on our trip to Paris in June, we had the opportunity to visit the grave of Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, or more simply, Lafayette. In the corner of this private cemetery in Paris is where he is buried, the US flag has proudly flown over his grave since the July 4, 1917. I also added a newer flag for one picture. Every July 4<sup>th</sup> since, members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati and U.S. embassy officials gather at Lafayette’s tomb for a celebration.



During WW II when the Germans occupied Paris, they were looking for this cemetery to take down the American flag. They did not find it. The Picpus Cemetery is about 4-5 miles from the center of Paris on a non-descript street. It is the site where over 1,300 people are buried after they were beheaded during the Reign of Terror in the late 1790’s. Both noblemen and commoners were buried together in one of the two pits dug for the purpose. The only way to be interred there currently is to be related to someone who was originally buried there in the 1790’s. The Sisters of the Sacred Heart have been “renting” the property since 1804.

God bless each of you and God bless America!

Steve

